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FREE



Drawing by Bits Hayden from *The Big Strike* by Mike Quinn, originally published in 1949.

Funeral March of 1934 Inspires General Strike

By Vas Arnautoff

The following article has been excerpted from the late Vas Arnautoff's much longer story that ran in the July 1984 issue of the Potrero View, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the great San Francisco maritime strike of 1934

July is parade time in America. In countless small towns and cities across the land, Main Street in the third week of summer throbs under the cadenced feet of thousands of marchers celebrating the birth of a nation.

Bands blare patriotic airs, civic dignitaries in open cars smile to flag-waving citizens on the sidewalks and offer homilies from park bandstands.

It will be the same this year, except

Except in San Francisco, where so often the citizenry marches to a different drummer. Here longshoremen march to commemorate an event dating back to July 5, 1934.

Some background: The San Francisco maritime strike was in full force. Ships sat idle. No cargo moved over the docks. The area south of Market Street from Second to the Embarcadero was a tense zone of sporadic violence.

On May 9, fed up with working conditions that required them to curry favor with hiring bosses to get a job, then being forced to work shifts of up to 48 or 50 hours at starvation wages, Pacific Coast longshoremen had laid down their hooks.

Turning their backs on the "Blue Book" union controlled by their employers, they got a charter from the AFL International Longshoremen's Assn. (ILA) and made their demands known: A coastwide contract, a union-run hiring hall, pay of one dollar an hour, and a shorter work day. The employers' response: An emphatic, flat "No!"

The event that made July 5, 1934 "Bloody Thursday" was that two men were shot down by policeman. They had done nothing, and were standing on the street.

The bloodshed of that Thursday strengthened the resolve of the strikers, drew the support of most other elements of labor in the city and won the sympathy of a large part of the general population.

In a mood of deep-seated anger, the longshoremen made preparations to honor the dead. An ILA contingent called on city officials and requested permission for a funeral parade up Market Street on July 9. The request was granted.

On July 5, 2002, there will be another celebration to mark the 1934 event when the city will officially dedicate its first labor landmark at 128 King Street. The King Street building had been the Garcia & Maggini Warehouse for incoming cargo from ships docked at the waterfront along the Embarcadero.

Marking 68 years since the events of "Bloody Thursday," July 5, 1934, when the killing of Howard Sperry and Nicholas Bordoise sparked the city's historic General Strike, a commemoration will take place July 5 at the Longshore Hall, 400 Northpoint.

So the funeral began. At ILA headquarters at Stuart and Mission, a brief ceremony was held, and the caskets of Sperry and Bordoise (the two murdered men) were put on flatbed trucks. Followed by three more trucks heaped with floral tributes and a band supplied by the musicians' union, playing a muffled funeral march, the procession flowed into the city's main thoroughfare.

Marching eight or ten abreast, the steady stream of mourners, men, women and children, numbering up to 20,000, packed Market Street from Stuart to Seventh Streets.

Good Affordable Residential Project Turned Down

By Dick Millet

We all have friends and family members who would like to live in the city but find housing cost too high. So picture 250 apartments that include a half-acre public open-space park and bikeway, near MUNI and Caltrain, with Car Share, across from an approved 148-unit project and a residential and retail area at the corner of Mission Bay. A project that uses no public funds and includes 30 to 50 units below market rent affordable units. A project that consists of 164 studio and one-bedroom units, 78 two-bedroom units and 8 three-bedroom units, ranging in size from 572 to 1,175 square feet. A building designed for state-of-the-art energy efficiency, with provisions for solar (photovoltaic) electricity generating panels.

That is a real project at 601 King Street at Seventh that the San Francisco Planning Commission refused to approve on Thursday June 20. The Planning Department received 15 letters in support of the project and only one in opposition. 15 people stayed until 10:00 PM to speak in full support, including 10 Potrero Hill residents and area business people, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, SPUR, the Housing Action Coalition, and even Joe O'Donoghue, and not one person spoke in opposition. It was the first time anyone can remember O'Donoghue standing on the same side of the fence with so many neighborhood people!

It seems that the Planning Commission turned down this proposal by A. F. Evans Company to build 250 rental units because they believed the environmental review had not been completed by the project sponsor, that they were confused about the amount of affordable units, and finally, that the Community Planning for Showplace Square/Potrero

Hill was not completed. In actuality, an environmental review for the project, including a height limit increase, was completed a week before the hearing and the department's own staff report clearly stated that the project would include a minimum of 30 affordable units increasing to 50 if the developer is successful in obtaining bonds from the state.

As to the issue of community planning, there have been four workshops and two satellite meetings, which support that the proposed project area is best suited for mixed-use housing. It is completely consistent with the general consensus developing from the Showplace Square/Potrero Hill community planning process. The current "Art's Trading" building has not been fully occupied for over 12 years because of structural problems. The adjoining commercial uses, San Francisco Gravel and Golden Gate Disposal, both have reviewed the proposal and do not oppose it. The new building would be 65 feet high, and would work well next to the other nearby large buildings like the Baker Hamilton Building and the Gift Center. The fact is that A.F. Evans Company, based in San Francisco, has come to our community several times over the past year to ask for suggestions, answer questions and listen to concerns. This is a good project. Let's hope that the new Planning Commission approves 601 King when it comes back before them in July.

(The next Showplace Square/Potrero Hill Community Workshop will be held at the California College of Arts and Crafts (CCAC), 1111 Eighth Street. Tentative schedule is for July 29 or 31, at 5:30 pm. Call Scott Edmondson, S.F. Planning Department, (415) 558-6384 for exact date.)

Dick Millet, a Potrero Hill resident and community activist, is a regular contributor to the View.

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A Hidden Threat

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In Our View

Security Is in Our Hands

We have been struggling with what to make of the Bush Administration's creation of a new "Homeland Security Department" and the proposal to include in it certain security functions of the FBI and CIA.

Regardless of how "security" is phrased, our concern is for our legal rights: Those rights seem to be shifting away from their original purposes. We don't believe that waving the American flag should be the only standard for maintaining our rights. We have laws on the books, formed in a more reasoned time, that can protect this country. But already there is fear and anxiety about what is being decided in the White House.

A View reader has asked about submitting a letter, withholding his/her name. Our policy is to withhold names upon request but the writers must include their name and address to us. After a short discussion, the reader voiced fear over retaliation for questioning our representatives – or being critical of our government. While we might seem complacent, we need to exercise our right to criticize. This type of repressive fear is precisely what concerns us – especially during this heightened time of supposed "terrorist" threats.

As a free people, with very specific constitutional freedoms afforded us, we have the right to question and challenge our country's leadership. We have the rights but they are useless unless they get used on a regular basis.

The nightmare of events in Israel and Palestine – which is escalating beyond our worst nightmares – is causing a civil liberties backlash, and impact in our country. In the name of terrorism we have locked people up on virtually no specific charges, other than they'd been racially profiled. What is happening with those who've been locked up since September 11?

We want our government to be honest with the American people in decisions about entering into "wars." What are our real interests in sending thousands of Americans into Third World countries to wipe out supposed terrorists? There is such a maniacal rush to "kill" leaders of other countries, it's no wonder more Americans are beginning to ponder the arrogance of our leaders.

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) usually meets the first Thursday of each month to discuss issues of public concern with members of the San Francisco Police Department. However, the July meeting has been cancelled in observance of Independence Day. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the Community Facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments after the meeting.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets on the first Monday of the month (July 1) from 4-5 p.m. Meetings, held at the Center at 1050 Wisconsin Street, are open to the public.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each *even-numbered* month (next meeting: August 13) at 7 p.m., Watermark Press, 950 Tennessee Street.

PHAB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of the month (July 9) at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents Association) meets the third Tuesday of the month (July 16), 7 p.m., at the Jackson Playground Clubhouse, Arkansas and Mariposa streets.

Starr King Park Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each *odd-numbered* month (next meeting: July 16) at 7 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Potrero Branch Library (1616 20th St.). Volunteer for the Park days continue every month on the third Saturday (July 20), 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The park is located at Carolina and 23rd streets.

On Saturday, July 27, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., the Long Range Planning Committee will hold a public meeting at the Potrero Branch Library to discuss trail improvements, perimeter signage, trash cans, and other park issues. For further information call Susanne Shields, secretary, (415) 810-4900.

Potrero Hill Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of the month (July 30) at 7:30 p.m. in the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. For details, call John deCastro, 865-0669.

Potrero Hill Garden Club meets the last Sunday of the month (July 28) at 11 a.m. for a potluck brunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussions will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Please call 648-6740 for details.

PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors) meets in executive session only. Anyone wishing to raise an issue for consideration by the board may phone Elizabeth at 826-6359.

— Wini Mann

450 Rhode Island Project

Proposed 170 Units / Grocery Market / Neighborhood Retail

We will be having a second Community Meeting to review plans and progress on our proposal for the 450 Rhode Island site in late July. The time and location have not yet been set. To receive updates and information, please contact us and request that you be added to our mail/email list. Thank you. Contact:

Steve Kuklin, A. F. Evans Development, Inc. 591-2204
skuklin@afevans.com



We Get Letters

Power Plant: How Much Soot, Steam, and Filth?

Editor:

Thank you for running articles about the proposed Mirant expansion. I am especially concerned about the long-term impact on the neighborhood. Your articles sparked my interest, and I have discovered some interesting facts in the public records available on the California Energy Commission web site.

Perhaps the greatest irony in the expansion is that the plant will not service the residents of Potrero Hill or any regular household electricity consumers. According to the ca.gov web site, "The Potrero Power Plant would be operated as a merchant power facility, selling its energy via direct sales agreements and in the spot market. Energy output and operational levels would vary according to demand in the deregulated California energy market. Electricity prices and operational levels would not be subject to California Public Utilities Commission regulation" (www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/potrero/index.html).

As residents of Potrero Hill and Dogpatch, we are familiar with the blight created by the Hunters Point Power Plant, so why would we want the Hunters Point replacement several blocks closer to our neighborhood? "The Unit 7 project will serve an important public purpose in helping secure a reliable energy supply for the upper San Francisco peninsula, and may help provide for the eventual shutdown of the Hunters Point Power Plant"

(www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/potrero/index.html).

An important issue currently up for discussion is the type of cooling system the plant will install. Mirant is whining about the expense of a proper cooling system for the up-graded plant. With the relaxed attitude in Washington toward environmental regulations will Mirant prevail at our environmental expense? The ca.gov page explains, "Use of once-through cooling would result in potentially significant impacts to aquatic biological resources. Staff [the government] has identified hybrid (wet/dry) cooling using reclaimed water from the City's wastewater treatment plant as a feasible alternative to once-through cooling. In staff's [the government] view, the switch to another cooling method would avoid entirely . . . a potentially significant environmental impact."

All of the residents of Potrero Hill, Dogpatch and surrounding neighborhoods should make an effort to become informed about the impact of the expansion plan on property values and health. Mirant Corp. is projecting spot market profits great enough to cover its \$260-\$320 million expansion, so how much soot, steam, and filth does that equate to for us?

Heidi Dunkelgod
22nd and Minnesota
San Francisco

If you wish to remain anonymous, please say so, but all letters must include your name and address when received by the View.
The Potrero View, 953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, CA 94107
e-mail address: editor@potreroview.net



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- ☐ Yes! I want "The View" delivered to my home for a full year (11 issues).
- ☐ \$20.00 check enclosed.

Name _____

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953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, CA 94107



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Capitol Update

Rights, Sites, Handwriting, Quotas, and Restrictions

By State Senator John Burton

In a diverse state of 35 million people, one that is the fifth largest economy in the world, there are a wide variety of issues that come before the Legislature. Some of those issues, such as the budget or the energy crisis, generally get significant attention in the media. Here is an update on some other bills I'm carrying this year that tackle important issues, but you may not have heard about on the news.

Farmworker Rights

Since 1975, when farm workers got the right to unionize, there have been 428 elections in which workers selected the United Farm Workers to negotiate a contract for them, but only 185 contracts have been signed. To remedy this, SB 1237 applies collective bargaining rules that were passed last year for agricultural workers in the horseracing industry to all agricultural workers. Under these rules, after a union wins an election, the union and the employer are required to enter into negotiations for a period of 90 days. When 90 days are up, if the union and employer have not reached an agreement they are required to participate in 30 days of mandatory mediation to try to resolve their dispute. At that point, if either party declares an impasse, the Agricultural Labor Relations Board will appoint an arbitrator to look at the outstanding issues under dispute, resolve those issues and establish the terms of contract.

Native American Sacred Sites

Native American tribes in California have seen their sacred religious sites threatened by everything from garbage dumps to gold mining. Because Native Americans have historically used specific natural sites for ceremonies central to tribes' religious beliefs, state policy should be to preserve these spiritual and cultural sites in their natural setting. SB 1828 will define Native American sacred sites and prohibit development permits if an Environmental Impact Report finds that the project would have an adverse impact on tribal religious practices. SB 1828 passed the Senate and is now working its way through the Assembly.

Parking Ticket Quotas

Current law prohibits cities and counties and other jurisdictions from setting quotas for arrests or traffic citations. There are clearly enough violations happening on the natural, so law enforcement officers shouldn't be required to spend time targeting a certain number of certain offenses. SB 2069 includes parking tickets as items for which quotas can't be set. It also makes it clear that the number of parking citations an officer issues can't

be used in promotions or demotions. Also, in the interest of fairness, SB 2069 adds University of California police to the roster of jurisdictions prohibited from setting quotas for arrests, traffic or parking citations.

Legible Handwriting

Last year the National Board on Education Testing and Public Policy released a report concluding that "national tests administered via pencil and paper may severely underestimate the performance of students who have gone to school with computers." A 2000 article in the Detroit News reported that bad handwriting causes American businesses to lose an estimated \$200 million because of illegible checks, invoices and other paperwork, and that the U.S. Postal Service pays \$4 million a year to decipher illegible addresses. SB 1770 has the State Board of Education set up a statewide penmanship competition including the Palmer Method and D'Nealian Method of penmanship among others. The competition would highlight the importance of good penmanship, which has often been overlooked in the rush to embrace technology, and spur students to improve their handwriting.

Cuba Trade and Travel Restrictions

SJR 39 calls on Congress and the President to end U.S. trade and travel restrictions in Cuba. Various U.S. sanctions have been in place for more than 40 years, and they have failed to promote change in Cuba. The hard line policy has strengthened Castro's hand and unified Cubans behind him against a common threat. The sanctions haven't even served the interests of the United States. The travel ban violates the rights of Americans to travel freely, a right they are allowed to exercise in countries with deplorable human rights records. American farmers are denied access to a market of 11 million people as Cuba imports food from other, more distant, countries. For instance, Cuba buys some 37,000 tons of poultry each year — almost entirely from Canada. California poultry producers should benefit from that trade, but they are excluded from the market by their own government. American children are not receiving the meningitis B vaccine developed by Cuban scientists, although it is widely used in Europe and South America. Meanwhile, companies from Canada and Europe, not the United States, are building tourist resorts at Cuban beaches anticipating more than 1.5 million American visitors when the travel ban is eventually lifted.

The Legislature adjourns at the end of August, so there will be a flurry of activity between now and then to decide the fate of these and hundreds of other bills. I'll keep you posted on the latest developments.

Funeral March of 1934 Inspires General Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

Contemporary accounts of the demonstration speak of "that strange silent march" and of its "awesome quiet and simplicity." Throngs that lined Market Street spontaneously bared their heads, few having to be reminded by longshore monitors wearing blue armbands. And not a single policeman could be seen along the entire route to Duggan's Funeral Parlor at Valencia and 17th Streets.

James Herman, former president of the ILWU said that "what we are saying to the police, to the employers, to the politicians is you can't shoot our people down. You can't work people to within an inch of their lives and toss them aside when you are through with them.

"We said you've got to sit down and talk to us, as equals, about the work we do, and what we get paid for doing it." Herman continued. "And you've got to listen to our opinions about the affairs of the community in which we live."

And they did listen in 1934 when the entire labor force of San Francisco went out on July 16 in a general strike that shut down the city in sympathy with the struggle of the maritime workers. The contested issues in the waterfront strike went to a President's mediation board, and on October 12 the decision came down. Longshoremen had won their hiring hall, a shortened work shift, and a wage raise with a premium for overtime.

ART ON THIRD STREET



Winners of a contest for artwork to decorate transit platforms along the Third Street Light Rail system were announced by the S.F. Arts Commission, and several of the youngsters are from Potrero Hill. In the photo, from left to right, Laura Moreno, Marcus Anthony Ramirez, Amber Huessa, Sheila Ghidini, Minna Elaranta, and Alfreda Hurtado pose in front of the Patrer Hill Neighborhood House. Winning designs will be reproduced on permanent fiberglass panels that will be installed in windcreens on 20 of the 28 transit platforms along the route.

The drawing on the left is 14-year-old Laura Moreno's pastel of Potrero Hill that will be reproduced on one of the 6-foot-high by 4-foot-wide panels. "At first," Laura says, "pastels are difficult to handle, but once you get into it."

Your Civil Grand Jury At Work

California may have the antidote to an alarming 30-year slump in voter registration, and, after last March's almost 25% turnout, the state wants to reverse the downtrend by modifying voting procedures.

So, as mandated by the S.F. Civil Grand Jury (CGJ), in this November's election, Californians will be asked to approve the CGJ's changes enabling eligible but unregistered voters, or voters who have recently moved, to present proper identification and cast their ballots on election day in the future. The November mechanism for the change will appear on the ballot as "Election Day Voter Registration Statewide initiative."

The S.F. Civil Grand Jury is composed of 19 jurors who volunteer considerable time and energy conducting investigations of the conditions and management of the jails; inquire into the willful or corrupt misconduct in office of all public officials and employees; inquire into the sales, transfers and ownership of lands escheated to the state; investigate the operations, accounts and records of city departments; and issue reports on their findings.

In an analysis of the Adult Probation Dept., the CGJ urges that probation officers be assigned to key neighborhoods and not confined to the Hall of Justice. A second recommendation is that more Spanish-speaking probation officers be made available to the Latino community.

A second current report deals with ways to improve Hunters Point Shipyards' environment safety program, as well as informing the community about the facility's cleanup program.

Additionally, after a seven-month investigation, the CGJ revealed a lack of public leadership by the city on the homeless problem, recommended that a Homeless Commission be established to more effectively address the problem.

The CGJ issued a set of recommendations aimed at establishing better management, tracking and accountability for homeless services. They found that there is a lack of public leadership on homelessness and recommend several detailed solutions: A new Commission on Homelessness, Information Systems, Shelters and Public Education. While the CGJ findings in many ways parallel the City Controller's recent report on homelessness, the Grand Jury's recommendation to create a Homelessness Commission moves beyond the current structure.

The Grand Jury also recommends rebuilding San Francisco General Hospital because it does not meet California seismic codes. Failure to comply with state law could result in the closure of the hospital by 2008, which would have a devastating impact on the city's health care system. The hospital serves as the major trauma center for San Francisco, serving citizens throughout the city. It supplies primary acute care for uninsured, under-insured and indigent citizens and residents of San Francisco.

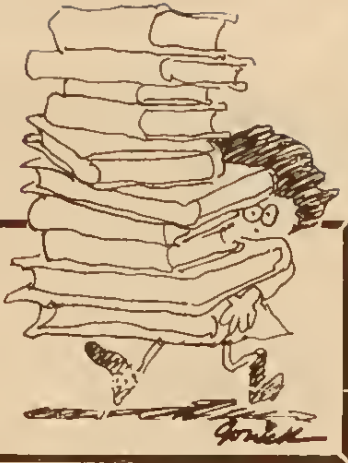
The complete report is available online at <http://www.afgov.org/courts/grndjury>. Printed copies

(This article was compiled by Chuck Elkind and Ruth Passen)

LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. • 695-6640

Closed Sunday and Monday
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



POTRERO LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVES

The Council of Neighborhood Libraries (CNL) is an advisory group that works with San Francisco Public Library's Chief of Branches to help create a public library system that best meets the needs of San Franciscans. I am pleased to report that Mariuccia Iaconi, businesswoman and longtime Potrero Hill resident, is now a member of the CNL. Ms. Iaconi joins Christina Quiroz in representing Potrero Library on this neighborhood council.

SUMMER READING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- "Get There From Here" is the theme for **Tcen Read 2002**, which runs now through July 27th. Youth (ages 13-18) who sign up and participate will receive incentive prizes for reading and taking part in different activities. Examples of prizes include free books and Borders Books & Music certificates.
- Don't forget, the **Summer Reading Club** for children through age 13 continues through August 10th. Stop by the library for more details.

NOT-SO-LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

There's plenty going on this month at Potrero Library:

- Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, July 11, 18, and 25 at 10:30 a.m. For children birth through age 3, accompanied by adults.
- Evening storytime for children ages 3 and older on Tuesdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks to generous funded provided by the Friends & Foundation of San Francisco Public Library, we are able to feature the following programs:

- "Insect Discovery Lab: Incredible Live Insects Come to the Library!" on Saturday, July 13 at 4:00 p.m. For ages 5 and older.

• "Whimsy Dolls From Scrap Materials: A Hands-On Craft Program" with Elizabeth Proctor on Wednesday, July 17 at 3:30 p.m. For ages 6 and older.

• "Charlie Chin and the Jakata Puppet Theater," featuring skits, jokes, and songs on Saturday, July 20 at 4:00 p.m. For ages 5 and older.

• "Stories From Around the World: An Afternoon of Storytelling and Shadow Puppet Theater," featuring Sean Powers on Tuesday, July 23 at 3:30 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

For all of the library's programs: groups, please call in advance for reservations.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER

• *Three Junes*, by Julia Glass. Readers may be reminded of Evelyn Waugh by the rich characterizations and narrative sweep that grace this fine debut novel about three summers in the lives of a Scottish family.

• *Dim Sum: The Art of Chinese Tea Lunch*, by Ellen Blonder. Introduces the Chinese culinary art of dim sum with 60 simple, authentic recipes.

• *Charles Dickens*, by Jane Smiley. Examines Dickens' life through his work, starting not with his birth, but with the beginnings of his literary career.

• *West of Kabul, East of New York: An Afghan American Story*, by Tamim Ansary.

BOOKS ON ORDER FOR CHILDREN

• *Junie B., First Grader (At Last!)* by Barbara Park

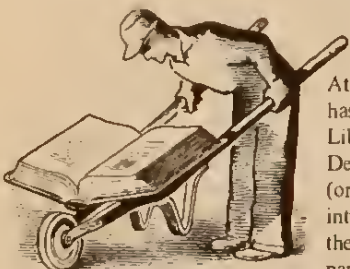
• *Good Enough to Eat: A Kid's Guide to Food and Nutrition*, by Lizzy Rockwell

• *When Uncle Took the Fiddle*, by Libba Moore Gray

Jensa Woo
Potrero Branch Manager



THIRTY YEARS OF THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY



At long last, the fourth bound volume of *The Potrero View* has joined the others on the shelves of the Potrero Branch Library. It contains issues from February 1992 through December 2000, and it's a biggie! You may need a forklift (or a wheelbarrow) to wrestle it to a reading table! It's intriguing to riffle through these tomes and see not only how the Hill has changed over the past thirty years but how the paper has evolved since its first issue in 1970.

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

FIRE HOUSE ALTERATIONS UP FOR DEBATE

Built in 1915 by architect John Reid, Jr., rated an architectural landmark in 1976, and earmarked for seismic upgrading after the 1989 earthquake, the modest firehouse near the top of Potrero Hill at 22nd and Wisconsin, was soon to be slated for a controversial alteration in the form of an addition. The Fire Department cited its need for expanded interior space with a separate door to accommodate a future second engine. The plan favored would fill in the present open space between the existing building and the towering condo next down the hill.

NEIGHBORS DISCUSS MOVE BY RECYCLERS

A group of hill residents met at the Esprit cafeteria to discuss the planned move of the West Coast Salvage (Norcal) recycling buyback facility on Rhode Island and 17th streets. The management reported that it hoped to have the facility relocated to 17th and Mississippi by November. The present site was being discussed a possible site for housing.

NEW PUBLIC TRANSIT CORRIDOR TO SERVE HILL

The impending construction of the Mission Bay Project prompted the PUC and MUNI to study ways of improving the current transportation system. At a June 10 meeting at the Neighborhood House, the Director of MUNI Service planning described a study, expected to take up to 12 months, designed to enhance services for the eastern part of the city, including Potrero Hill, Visitacion Valley, Bayview and Hunters Point, from Market Street to south to the county line. Some of the major proposals being considered were: a Third Street motor coach; a San Bruno trolley coach; a Third Street trolley coach; a Third Street light rail system, which could run to the county line, with a stop at Candlestick Park; a light rail system that would join up with CalTrain at 4th and Townsend; and two different "Heavy-Rail" systems. These possibilities were not necessarily mutually exclusive.

PARTIES IN JULY

A retirement party for longtime Hill businessman and realtor Ray Cicerone was to be held July 22 at Anchor Steam Beer, Mariposa and De Haro Streets. The Neighborhood House would hold a reception July 12 honoring Jack Jacqua, the co-founder of the Omega Boys Club five years earlier.

CELEBRATING JOE PASSEN

Joe Passen — one of a kind — died of cancer June 6, three days after his 79th birthday. His interests and activities ranged from national and world politics, to trade unionism, bird watching, opera and theater. He helped form the West Los Angeles Democratic club, and was active, after he moved to Northern California, in the ILWU Ships Clerks, Teamsters Local 85, Taxi Drivers Local 265, and the Screen Extras Guild. He was awarded a Bronze Star while serving in the Army in the Philippines during World War II. He and Ruth Elkind were married in 1947. Their son Marc was member of the Bay Area Touring Side rugby team, and Joe served for several years as a Touch Judge in rugby tournaments. He served as a volunteer and Board member of the Neighborhood House, and as a staff member of the Potrero View.

COMIC RELIEF FROM THE JULY 1992 ISSUE

A real advertisement: "APARTMENT FOR RENT. We're looking for a quiet, single renter for a one-bedroom apartment (circa 1912) on a secluded street on Potrero Hill. Full kitchen with dishwasher and dutch door. Parking, electricity, gas, water and trash included. \$600 per month with one year lease. First, last, and security deposit required. No pets or smokers, please. Call..."

AND TWENTY YEARS AGO... Settlement near in public housing rent strike... Edwin Waters, for the last ten years a teacher at Daniel Webster School, capped his 33-year teaching career when a mural executed by his third and fourth grade students was unveiled in the school's multipurpose room... Three Potrero Hill longshoremen were interviewed about their recollections of the 1934 general strike... The View printed a prize-winning essay by teenager Mike Walsh that gave a grim picture of the Hill in the year 2000: "Fragmentation, Big Brother watching everywhere, a sudden fuel drain — these were some of the visions Walsh's essay projected," said the View story... Moscone Center was the site of the first San Francisco County Fair and Exposition... Some sixty trees were planted around the Showplace Square complex.

— Bernie Gershtater



Christopher's Books

An independently owned neighborhood bookstore on Potrero Hill

1400 18th Street
Open everyday 10-10
415.255.8802

email: chrisbks@earthlink.net

MUNI Tix at Nabe

MUNI tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro, Mondays through Fridays, 10 am-4 pm

Senior MUNI: \$8.00
Youth MUNI: \$8.00

For more info, call 826-8080

Delirious Shoes & More
517 Connecticut St. 10th
415.641.4086

Artist Workspaces
starting at
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Domestic Violence and The Unforeseen Victim

By Inspector Joe Engler, SFPD

On Wednesday, June 12 San Francisco Police Officer Jon Cook of Mission Station was killed in the line of duty as a result of a horrific vehicular accident. Rookie Police Officer Nicholas Ferrando, a passenger in one of the vehicles, remains in serious condition at San Francisco General Hospital with severe head injuries.

The accident occurred when two black-and-white radio cars arrived simultaneously in the intersection of 17th Street and Dolores Street. The two radio cars were travelling in "Code 3" mode with red lights and sirens activated at the time of impact.

The events of June 12 were set in motion when a San Francisco man chose to commit several acts of domestic violence upon his girlfriend. It was this man whom the injured officers sought to apprehend.

Reporting Domestic Abuse

"Early intervention and counseling is a key component to breaking the cycle of domestic violence in the home," said Police Inspector Joe McFadden of the Domestic Violence Response Unit. "The degrees of the abuse that we see in our investigations is often progressive and involves the same victim and suspect."

Domestic violence is defined as any person who willfully inflicts any corporal or visible injury upon a spouse, cohabitant, or parent of their child. A cohabitant refers to parties who have lived together for a substantial period of time which results in some permanency of relationship and includes a sexual or amorous intimacy.

Victims of domestic violence are often reluctant to come forward to report the abuse out of embarrassment or a feeling of responsibility for the abusive suspect's actions. Victims often will cover up their scrapes and bruises by claiming to be excessively clumsy. Visible injuries accompanied by a pattern of improbable mishaps are a red flag for family members and friends of domestic violence victims.

Should you suspect a friend or family member is being abused, do not remain

silent. Ask them directly about your suspicions. Let them know that there are resources available to them. The San Francisco Police Department will provide a victim with an immediate police response and referrals to support groups located in every community within our city. The San Francisco District Attorney's office has a prosecutorial team that deals exclusively in pursuing domestic violence crimes. Members of the Victim Witness Assistance Program are extremely supportive of domestic violence victims and can assist with alternative housing and the obtaining of restraining orders.

As a police officer, I find that words to describe my feeling regarding the tragedy of June 12 come with great difficulty. Upon accepting the responsibility of becoming a police officer, a person dedicates his or her life to a profession in which service to a community is the stated goal. The dangers associated with that service are an unspoken, but ever present, part of the profession. On June 12, Officers Cook, Ferrando, Celis, and Lee raced to a location to apprehend a domestic violence suspect who was subsequently charged with attempted murder, torture, aggravated mayhem, false imprisonment, and robbery.

A police officer is dead. Another officer clings to his life. A woman has been victimized by a man accused of one of the most heinous acts of domestic abuse that I have known as a police officer. It is with a heavy heart that I would ask all those persons who call this city their home one simple, but important request:

If you are ever a witness to an incident of domestic abuse, please report the crime immediately. It is the responsibility of all of us to see that the chain of abuse is broken early and before any more lives are shattered through tragedy.

Inspector Joe Engler is currently assigned to the S.F. Police Department's Burglary Detail and handles all theft-related cases in the Bayview District of the city. Contact Insp. Engler at the Burglary Detail, 850 Bryant St., Rm. 405, S.F. 94103. Or call: 553-1351.



Xander Walbridge (right) and his All-Star teammate, August Fischer. Lael Robertson photo

Local Little Leaguer On Championship Team

Potrero Hill resident Zander Walbridge and his little league team, the Yankees, took the city championship away from first-place A's June 5 by a score of 11-6. During the season the Yankees' record stood at 11 wins and seven losses to the A's 14 wins and three losses.

Eleven year old Zander began his love of baseball when he was seven years old. He went to the Potrero Hill Library and got lots of books on baseball, mostly on the game's facts and tips.

When he was 8½ Zander joined a team in Jackson Park, and at 9 he got into Little League where he has played for three years on three teams: The Diamond Backs, the Seals, and the Yankees.

Earlier this year Zander and his good friend and Hill resident Lucas Tejeda raised enough funds by themselves to go to the spring training camp of the S.F. Giants.

When Zander is not playing ball he is going to cheer on his favorite team, The San Francisco Giants, and hang out with his friends.

Zander plays first base, wears jersey number eight (the number worn by former major league player Yogi Berra), and batted .487 this year.

He lives with his mom Lael, dad Peter and twin sisters Oona and Celia on Missouri Street.

(Zander credits his sisters Oona and Celia Robertson with authorship of this story. His mother, Lael Robertson, provided further details: Zander and Lucas took it upon themselves to raise the funds to attend the S.F. Giants' spring training camp in Scottsdale, Ariz. Zander wrote proposals for the trip, and both he and Lucas solicited family and friends to underwrite the trip. The boys raised enough money to fly to Arizona, and, through research, chose hotels and car rentals. The boys' fathers were invited to go along with their sons - a good move, since the underaged youngsters couldn't have rented or paid for any of the travel needs.)

THE SAN FRANCISCO MIME TROUPE

MISTER SMITH GOES TO OBSCURISTAN



The Wandering Tattler

Michael Bauer, the Chronicle's restaurant reviewer, has an odd notion about the Hill — he implies that it needs Frenchification . . . It's official: An auction on June 26 marked the end of the Esprit Corporation's 30-year presence on the Hill. The Esprit name has been sold to a Hong Kong group, so the label will still be around, but the 400 people who once worked at 900 Minnesota are gone for good. Back in the Tompkins days, the Tattler used to drool over their magnificent collection of quilts that hung on Esprit's lobby walls . . . Rima Michaels, former proprietor of the late, lamented Daily Scoop, has been seen trolling the neighborhood, scouting for another venue? Hazel's?? . . .

Please stay away from the bookstore . . . Much tree pruning happening on 18th Street - could a loading zone for Chez Papa be in the offing? Could MUNI be behind this? The #53 has always had a bit of a struggle making that turn onto Missouri Street, but now with provisions for the Bistrot being delivered seemingly 24/7, there is much huffing and puffing and backing and forth . . . Cafe Des Amis (same ownership as Chez Papa and almost as pricey) is now open for lunch as well as dinner in the tiny space once occupied by Just For You, now thriving on 23rd Street in Dogpatch . . . Yael Chanoff of Missouri Street was recently bat mitzvahed . . . Mazel tov! . . . The little red house is now the big multi-hued behemoth. The little red house looked good for over 100 years but this artsy industrial look will look dated by next year . . . Artist Dr. Ann Brinkley has a show of her work at Farley's. It was SRO there on opening night June 6 . . . And the Connecticut Yankee is giving their stage a bit more of a workout. Music on Wednesdays and weekends . . . The bird is not fussy, we'll print anything. Email to wtattler@potreroview.net.

Rolling Peace Party at SomArts Cultural Center

Three days and nights of peace, arts, activism and music will take place over the Independence Day holiday weekend at SomArts Cultural Center in San Francisco.

The events are an alternative celebration, honoring the movement for peace and global harmony, and showcasing the role of alternative media. It is the organizers' hopes to provide a forum for concerned citizens to get involved with organizations working for social change and global peace.

July 4 - the 2002 Rolling Peace Party begins with a celebration on the San Francisco Mime Troupe's 41st season of Free Shows in the Parks. Immediately following the World Premiere Performance of the Troupe's new show, "Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan" in Dolores Park, SomArts Gallery will open its doors for a gala cast party, featuring a Mime Troupe Band alumni reunion jam session, and Guillermo Gomez-Pena's Re-Group Performance Workshop will give voice to a new language in defense of imagination. The Main Hall will host an exhibition by Weaving for Freedom/Women in Resistance of traditional Navajo rugs from Big Mountain.

July 5 - The evening begins at 5 p.m. with an opening reception for LaborFest 2002, featuring paintings by Mike Connor and photographs by Joe Blum; and an anti-war art show with work from Jos Sances, Barbara Lubin, Doug Minkler, John Gruntfest and Jack Freeman. At 6 p.m. LaborFest will screen "Strange Fruit" by Joel Katz and "Piquetores," an American premiere about the labor movement in Argentina. At 8 p.m. a special

live four-hour broadcast of KPFA's variety show "La Onda Bajita" with host El Gavilan, interviews and live performance. The evening concludes with an outdoor sound and projection environment created by Roots & Branches.

July 6 - The Saturday accent is on organizing, with a liberal dose of fun. Doors open early for children's activities, workshops and a wide variety of music and entertainment. S.F. District Attorney Terence Hallinan heads up a roster of speakers dedicated to positive social change. Invited guests include Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Sophie Maxwell, and Michael Parent, Jello Biafra, and Rebecca Solnit. There is also a film and video program curated by Kevin Epps, director of "Straight Outta Hunters Point," as well as offerings from the LaborFest. Music will be provided by the Babar Jug Band, Randy Craig, the Bush-Laden Band, and many more.

Organizers of the event include Media Alliance, LaborFest 2002, Global Exchange, the Rolling Thunder Down Home Democracy Tour, and KPFA Radio. That station's investigative news magazine, with host Dennis Bernstein, will broadcast live daily at five p.m.

Doors open at SomArts Cultural Center at 4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, July 4 and 5, and at noon on Saturday, July 6. Admission is on a "pay what you can" basis, and proceeds benefit the sponsoring organizations. SomArts is located at 934 Brannan St. More information can be found on the SomArts website: www.somarts.org or by calling 552-2131, ext. 401.

BLUES FESTIVAL MEMORABILIA



SomArts Gallery in the South of Market Cultural Center will present The San Francisco Blues Festival Memorabilia during the month of July at 934 Brannan St. Blues Festival producer Tom Mazzolini will bring to SomArts posters, programs, newspaper clippings, photos and souvenirs from the many years that the Festival has been celebrated in San Francisco. The show will run from July 9-27, with a reception on July 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event is free to the public. For more information please call Carlos Loarca at 552-2131, ext. 8.

In the 1984 photo of performers are (l to r), Son Seals, Ice Cube Slim, Mazzolini, Toru Oki and Marcia Boll.
Jon Sievert photo

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EVENTS AT THE PRESIDIO IN JULY:

Waterfront walk, along a tidal marsh, restored dunes and thousand of native plants that have attracted 140 species of birds, for two hours starting 10:30 a.m., **Thursday, July 4**. Reservations are required, rain cancels. Call 561-4223.

The guns of San Francisco will be the topic of an illustrated talk at 1 p.m., **Saturday, July 6 and Sunday, July 7** at the Presidio's Battery Chamberlin. Rain cancels.

Join a free walking tour through the West Coast's oldest National Cemetery, **Tuesday, July 9**, from 10 a.m. to noon. Dress warmly and wear comfortable shoes. For reservations and starting point call 561-4323.



FILLMORE STREET JAZZ FESTIVAL **Saturday, July 6 and Sunday, July 7**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. The Festival combines traditional and contemporary jazz, gourmet food and beverage booths, and more than 200 juried artists. It begins on Fillmore at Jackson Street and extends through the Fillmore Jazz Preservation District to Ellis Street. Entertainments stages are at California, Sutter and Ellis streets. Admission is free. Parking is available at Ellis and Fillmore and the JapanTown Garage/ Kabuki Garage on Geary.



SF PUBLIC LIBRARY ADULT PROGRAMS IN JULY INCLUDE:

Saturday, July 6: "Wild Sea Lions of Pier 39", a lecture by Graham Charles of the Marine Mammal Center."

Thursday, July 11: A David Small World," art exhibition opening reception, author reading and booksigning.

Saturday, July 20: "The Life and Art of Chiura Obata," a slide presentation by Kimi Kodani Hill, granddaughter and family historian.

Saturday, July 27: "Blacks and Their Others: The Jews," a lecture by author and Oakland scholar, Robert Phillipson, Ph.D.

All events are free and open to the public. Call 557- 4277 for more information.



FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP on Stress Management, Fibromyalgia and Headaches, presented by the Bay Area Doctors' Speakers Bureau featuring Dr. Elan Vitcoff, D.C., **Tuesday, July 9** at 6:30 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Admission is free. Call 781-1131 to reserve a place.



2002 ROLLING PEACE PARTY

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www.somarts.org • http://www.somarts.org/



IAN RUSKIN AND THE HARRY BRIDGES CHAUTAUQUA will be presented **Tuesday, July 9**, at 7:30 p.m., at the UCSF Laurel Heights Campus, 3333 California Street at Walnut. Parking is plentiful. The #1 California and #43 Masonic buses serve the area. The Chautauqua is a presentation in three parts: a dramatic monologue delivered as the historical figure, and two question and answer periods, the first addressed to the historical figure, and the second to the presenter. British actor Ian Ruskin will present Harry Bridges to the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society in this form, talking about his early years, the influences that formed his philosophy, and some of the major events of his life: the 1934 General Strike, the forming of the ILWU, and Harry's 21-year struggle to become an American citizen.



BASTILLE DAY PARTY ON THE PIER.

The French-American Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with Left Bank Restaurants and French TV station TV5 will bring Bastille Day back to SF on **Friday, July 12**, at Pier 23, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The warehouse will be transformed into a classic French marketplace. Guests will enjoy "pique-nique" fare catered by Left Bank Restaurants. Street performances including jugglers and mimes will provide entertainment, and there will be dancing to French tunes spun by a DJ. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$70 at the door. Admission price includes food, wine, beverages, entertainment and a souvenir wine glass. Contact French-American Chamber of Commerce at 398-2449 or visit www.facesf.com.



ART FOR AIDS launches online Gallery and Bidding Event for Butterfields, **Friday, July 12**, in San Francisco. The benefit art auction has inaugurated online bidding to expand its reach and raise funds to support the work of the UCSF AIDS Health Project. The sale can be previewed online at www.artforaids.org. Bids can be made on the web site at any time for artwork that will be sold at auction on July 12. Art for Aids will showcase the work of 200 modern and contemporary artists, drawing a capacity crowd of art buyers to the benefit, which kicks off at 5:30 p.m. at Butterfields.



THURSDAY July 4 Doors at 4
*SF Mime Troupe, gala cast party, featuring a Mime Troupe Band alumni, immediately following the World Premiere Performance of "Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan" in Dolores Park.
*Big Mountain Prayer Rug exhibition
*Guillermo Gomez-Pena's Regroup

FRIDAY July 5 Doors at 5
*Laborfest 2002 Art reception for Joe Blum, Mike Connor and poster art from Argentina
*Anti-war exhibition featuring Jos Sances, Doug Minkler, John Grunfest, Barbara Lubin, Jack Freeman, Royal Chicano Air Force and more
*Laborfest Films: Strange Fruit & 6 and Piqueteros (Argentina) @ 7:15
*La Onda Bajita live broadcast on KPFA 94.1 fm from 8 to midnight with host El Gavilan
*Roots & Branches outdoor sound and projection environment

SATURDAY July 6 Doors at Noon
*Speakers Terence Hallinan, Tom Ammannio, Sophie and Enola Maxwell, Michael Parenti, Jello Biafra, and Rebecca Solnit
*Children's Activities
*Organizing workshops
*Film and Video curated by Kevin "Straight Outta Hunters Point" Epps as well as offerings from the Laborfest.
*Music Babar Jug Band, Randy Craig, the Bush-Laden Band, and many more

RANGE OF MOTION: SERIES II: Dancers' Group Summer Dance Festival Faculty performs eclectic contemporary dance. Performances by Katie Duck/Maggie, Keith Hennessy, Shannon McMurchy, Rhythmix, Shinichi Momo Koga, and Kim Epifano. One weekend only, **Friday through Sunday, July 12-14**, at 8 p.m., at the Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th Street at Mission. Tickets are \$15. For information and reservations call 920-9181.

Dancers' Group also presents a Slumber Party/ Dance Fringe Film Festival, **Thursday, July 18** at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Popcorn and hot chocolate will be provided. Bring your own pillow. Call 920-9181 for information and reservations.



THE SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER

Friday, July 12, 5:30 p.m. Hawaiian vocalist Keali'i Reichel in a concert of Hawaiian native songs and chants, and contemporary English pop music. His latest CD has already sold more than half a million copies. **Saturday, July 27**, 2 p.m.: Kenny Barron, a giant in the annals of jazz piano playing, having worked with legends such as James Moody, Dizzy Gillespie, Freddie, and Stan Getz.

Both programs are free and take place at CMC, 544 Capp Street. For more information call 647-6015.



SLUG CLASSES IN JULY:

Saturday, July 13: Compost Tea Recipes, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn to make a nutritious liquid fertilizer for your plants; free, 7th Avenue at Lawton Street.

Saturday, July 20: Urban Composting in the Richmond (in Russian and English), 10 a.m. to noon. Turn garbage into gold; free; Argonne Community Garden, 15th Avenue between Fulton and Cabrillo. Call 285-7584 to register.

Saturday, July 27: Build your own planter boxes and compost bins, 10 a.m. to noon. 7th Avenue at Lawton. \$5 for members, \$10 non-members.



GALA FASHION SHOW: "30 Shades of Pink," celebrating San Francisco Design Center's 30th anniversary, will take place **Friday, July 19**, 5 to 9 p.m., at the Galleria Atrium, 101 Henry Adams near Eighth and Townsend streets. The show features thirty one-of-a-kind designer ensembles made from some of the world's most exquisite and fabulous fabrics, all in various shades of pink; a live auction of these outfits; the chance to sample specialties from some of Northern California's top restaurants and wineries; a benefit for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Runway-side tables for four are \$200. They are available by calling Lisa Boquiren at 490-5821. Tickets for 30 Shades of Pink are \$25 through July 18; \$35 at the door. To purchase advance tickets call 490-5887 or 490-5889.



8th ANNUAL POTRERO HILL HEALTH AND JOB FAIR will be held **Saturday, July 20**, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Recreation Center, Arkansas and 22nd streets. There will be free food and entertainment, and an opportunity to get important information about child and adult health, and free job information. Some testing for certain health issues will be available. For information call the Potrero Hill Family Resource Center at 206-2121.



SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY'S FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT in Golden Gate Park is always a highlight of summer in the Bay Area. This year, Resident Conductor Edwin Outwater will lead the SFS in the park's Sharon Meadow, on **Sunday, July 28**, at 2 p.m. The afternoon of music includes classical favorites by Bernstein, Copland and Gershwin. Bring a blanket and a picnic.



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and disabled homeowners and renters is available for those who qualify. The Homeowner and Renter Assistance program (HRA) provides a once-a-year payment from the state based on property taxes directly paid by homeowners and indirectly paid by renters. Homeowners can receive up to \$472.60, while renters can receive up to \$347.50. Eligible claimants must have had a household income of \$37,119 or less, or gross income of \$67,490 or less, and must have been at least 62 years of age, or blind, or disabled on December 31, 2001. The form is available at www.fth.ca.gov or by calling (800) 338-0505. Volunteers will provide free claims assistance.



CREATIVITY EXPLORED GALLERY, 3245 16th Street, between Dolores and Guerrero, presents "Seeing Behind the Face," an exhibition about explorations. Identity is explored by studio artists through large colorful pastel portraiture. Ink drawings on large paper scrolls transform the space into a labyrinth, and a video piece provides an intimate exploration of artists at work and play in the studio. The exhibition runs through August 17. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10-3 p.m., Saturday, 11-6 p.m.



THE 175-VOICE SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL SOCIETY will sing a "Concert of Peace and Light" at Mission Dolores Basilica, featuring Vaughan Williams' "Dona Nobis Pacem" and Morton Lauridsen's "Lux Aeterna," **Friday and Saturday, August 2 and 3**. The concerts, under the direction of Robert Geary, will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased through City Box Office, 180 Redwood Street, in San Francisco. The Box Office phone number is 392-4400. Tickets are \$25, for front orchestra, \$21 for general admission. There is a \$2 discount for students and seniors.



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IN MEMORIAM

Walter Lopez
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June 9, 2002

Film Festival Connects Current Events with the Past

By Judy Baston

For 22 years now, the Jewish Film Festival has played a special role for Bay Area Jews, many of whom are unconnected with other forms of Jewish organization and expression but flock hungrily to this annual event.

This year, with the rise of both terrorism and anti-semitism worldwide, and with escalating Mideast violence challenging hopes for a peaceful solution, this festival may carry even greater significance as a context to which people can bring their questions, contradictions and passions.

Set for San Francisco's Castro Theatre from July 25-August 1, and at UC Berkeley's Wheeler Auditorium, Menlo Park's Park Theater and San Rafael's Rafael Film Center following that, this festival seems to accept the challenges of the times. The program includes a number of films on the Mideast, as well as films on Jewish women around the world and selections that highlight fascinating and sometimes little known aspects of Jewish history.

The Secret (Ronit Kerstner) shares the voyage of discovery of Poles who were raised Catholic during and after the Holocaust – including a priest – and who are only now discovering their Jewish family roots. Their inner conversations as they make room for new identities alongside their old are compelling and moving.

One of the lesser known aspects of both Jewish and Soviet history was the establishment in 1928 of the Jewish Autonomous Region of Birobidzhan, in the far reaches of the Soviet Far East. An exhibit several years ago at Berkeley's Judah Magnes Museum, "Stalin's Forgotten Zion," with its accompanying eponymous volume, contained quite a bit of information about Birobidzhan. But it has fallen to the film *L'Chaim, Comrade*

Stalin (Yale Strom) to provide the human side of this political experiment.

L'Chaim includes interviews with several former Birobidzhan residents, as well as a number of Jews still living there. With a series of fascinating clips and interviews, the film shows how — against steep political odds — the Yiddish language, and even some vestiges of Yiddish culture, have survived there to this day. (A concert of Russian Klezmer music will follow the film's 5:30 p.m. screening August 1 at the Castro Theatre; concert and film for \$15.)

Closer to home, many Jewish immigrants, with scores of radicals among them, flocked to Petaluma to become chicken farmers. Like those who went to Birobidzhan, they sought to remake the image of the Jew into one who worked the land, but the Petaluma experience was a far easier one. *Home on the Range* (Bonnie Burt, Judith Montell) explores the life and the conflicts of this community and raises questions about the nature of Jewish identity in America today.

Also sure to be of interest is *Strange Fruit* (Joel Katz), which tracks the history of the jazz classic about a lynching which began as a poem by Abel Meeropol and was made famous by Billie Holiday. In telling the story of the song, this film also reflects on the lives of African Americans immigrant Jews, and the worlds of left wing politics and jazz musicians.

In the Film Festival program, Director Janis Plotkin and Board President Dan Wohlfeiler write of their film selections, especially those dealing with the Mideast: "We are proud to give voice to questions which many have been hesitant to ask, to raise issues which are confusing to broach, and to put human faces on the opposing sides of the conflict."

Particularly compelling, *Inner Tour* (Ra'anan Alexandrowicz) follows a diverse group of Palestinian tourists on a three-day



A scene from the film *L'Chaim, Comrade Stalin*, showing children learning Yiddish at a Jewish school in Birobidzhan, 1932. The film, part of the Jewish Film Festival 2002, will be shown at the Castro Theatre on August 1.

sightseeing trip in Israel in 2000. *Living in Conflict* (Etienne Kallos, Mikayla Mickelberg), which begins in 1999, features five Israeli and Palestinian poets, scientists and artists. And *Between the Lines* (Yifat Kedar) profiles Amira Hass, journalist for the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, who is the only Israeli journalist to live full-time among Palestinians.

In all three films the most telling moments are those in which participants — both Palestinians and left-wing Israelis such as Hass — find themselves trying to make room for contrasting and often contradictory perceptions, for other histories and feelings. For example, in *Between the Lines*, standing amid the same Israeli soldiers to whom she frequently poses challenging, even hostile, questions, Hass muses, "Now that I'm here with them, they don't seem bloodthirsty like they do when I'm on the Palestinian side. When I'm on the other side it sounds different." And in *Inner Tour*, one Palestinian woman on the bus in Israel

asks another to imagine how she would feel if they knew "the guy who killed your husband was here," to which the second responds thoughtfully, "but if my husband was in an operation where a soldier was killed, how would his mother feel if she found out who I am?"

These films were all made before the start of the Al-Aksa Intifada in the fall of 2000, and certainly before the recent increase in suicide bombers targeting Israeli civilians. But even in these films there is the shadow of the months ahead. There is a sense of hope in *Living in Conflict*, yet is chillingly tempered in a scene in which young Palestinian artist Rana Bishara talks to a teenager and a young boy on the beach. If he could do anything he wanted, the teenager told her, "I would go and kill all the Jews."

For more information on the Jewish Film Festival call (925) 866-9559 or, go to www.sjff.org



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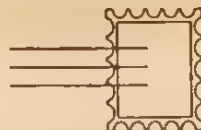
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Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

ON-GOING MEETINGS:

Al-Anon Thursdays, 6:30 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Mondays & Thursdays, 8:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous Wednesdays, 8 pm
Omega Boys Club Tuesdays, 7:30 pm
Employment Workshops Fridays, 10:00 am

Board of Directors meetings are held on the third Monday of each month

FACILITIES:

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All services and activities FREE

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is wheelchair accessible. If you should need the services of a certified American Sign Language Interpreter, or a sound enhancement system, or a meeting in an alternative format, please call (415) 826-8080 at least one week prior to event. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving the most needy of the community with an emphasis on youth and education.



Woody Guthrie

Tribute to Woody Guthrie at Main Library

Berkeley author Elizabeth Partridge and activist folksinger Ronnie Gilbert will present a *Celebration of the Life and Music of Woody Guthrie*, on Tuesday, July 30, at 6 p.m., at the SF Main Library's Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove). The evening begins with a slide show and commentary from Partridge, whose new Guthrie bio, *This Land Was Made For You and Me*, chronicles Woody's troubled life – poverty, mental illness, alcoholism and tragedy. Ronnie Gilbert, formerly of the Weavers, will join Partridge for a conversation about Woody's causes, colleagues, and legacy. The event, which marks the 90th anniversary of Guthrie's birth, is free and open to all. For more info, call (510) 845-8081.



Theatre Rhinoceros Premieres *Sleeping With Straight Men*

Great Scott Productions presents the world premiere of Ronnie Larsen's newest play, *Sleeping with Straight Men*, from June 14–July 21, at Theatre Rhinoceros Studio, 2926 16th Street (16th and Mission streets). This exclusive engagement, Mink Stole will star as the talk show host. Based loosely around the events of the Jenny Jones murder case in 1995, where a gay man was killed after revealing he had a crush on a straight man on a national television talk show, *Sleeping With Straight Men* is about lust, the consequences of lust, the consequences of fame and, of course, the consequences of sleeping with straight men who own guns. According to Larsen, "The play is mostly funny, and fast, and erotic, and silly . . . but then someone gets killed, and then it's not so funny after that." Ronnie Larsen is the controversial and prolific playwright of many shows that have been produced in San Francisco, including *Making Porn*, *10 Naked Men*, *All-Male Peep Show* and last summer's hit, *A Few Gay Men*.

This production will also mark Mink Stole's return to the SF stage. She appeared here in the early 70s in a number of productions (*Vice Palace* and *See Why Hannah's Skirt Won't Stay Down*) and has appeared in several films, including *Pink Flamingos*, *Polyester*, *Hairspray* and *Serial Mom*. Also featured with her will be Dan Renzi from MTV's *Real World: Miami* and Sister Roma from the *Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*. Performances are Friday at 8:30 p.m., and Saturday at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., and Sunday at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for all performances except Sunday matinees which are \$20. For tickets, call the Rhino's box office at 861-5079 or visit online at www.ticketweb.com.

Performing Arts Roundup

By Julia Segrove

Rolling Peace Party Takes Over SomArts Gallery

Media Alliance, in conjunction with LaborFest 2002, Global Exchange, the Rolling Thunder Down Home Democracy Tour and KPFA Radio presents three days of peace, arts, activism, films and videos, and music on July 4, 5 and 6 at SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street.

On July 4, the Rolling Peace Party Party begins with a celebration of the SF Mime Troupe's 41st season of Free Shows in the Parks. Immediately following the World Premiere Performance of the Troupe's new show, *Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan*, SomArts Gallery will open its doors for a gala cast party, featuring a Mime Troupe alumni reunion jam session, and Guillermo Gomez-Pena's Re-Group Performance Workshop will give voice to a new language in defense of imagination. On July 5, at 5 p.m., after a reception for LaborFest 2002, an anti-war art show will feature work by Jos Sances, Barbara Lubin, Doug Minkler, John Gruntfest and Jack Freeman. At 6 p.m. LaborFest will screen Joel Katz's *Strange Fruit* and *Piquetores*, an American premiere about the labor movement in Argentina. The evening concludes with an outdoor sound and projection environment created by Roots & Branches.

On July 6, the accent is on organizing, with a liberal dose of fun. Doors open early for children's activities, workshops and a wide variety of music and entertainment. SF District Attorney Terence Hallinan heads up a roster of speakers dedicated to positive social change. Invited guests include Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Sophie Maxwell, Michael Parenti, Jello Biafra and Rebecca Solnit.

Also, on July 6, local filmmaker Kevin Epps, director of *Straight Outta Hunters Point*, will present a film and video program of short, socially relevant work including, *The Pie's The Limit*, featuring pie attacks on high profile public figures and controversial corporate officials, *Hunters Point on Fire*, a look at the mysterious fires that burned for weeks on the Naval base in 2000, *More Fun In The New World Order*, featuring clips of Bay Area street demonstrations, and special preview trailers from *Straight Outta Hunters Point* and *Boom: The Sound of Eviction*.

The events are an alternative celebration, honoring the movement for peace and global harmony, and showcasing the role of alternative media. Doors open at SomArts Cultural Center at 4 p.m. on July 4 and July 5, and at

12 noon on Saturday, July 6. Admission is on a "pay what you can basis." Proceeds benefit the sponsoring organizations. For more info, call 552-2131, ext. 401 or go to www.somarts.org.

Documentaries by Ellen Bruno at YBC

Filmmaker, international relief worker and 2002 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Wattis Artist-in-Residence Ellen Bruno's *Samsara*, *Satya* and *Sacrifice*, a trilogy of poignant, personal documentaries that explore political and social issues of Cambodia, Tibet and Thailand, will be shown throughout July on Tuesdays through Sundays at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in the Screening Room, 701 Mission Street (at Third). *Samsara* (1989) documents Cambodian life in the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge's massive genocidal campaign, during which an estimated two million people were killed. The film received numerous awards, including the Special Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival. In *Satya: A Prayer for the Enemy* (1993), Bruno turns her attention to Tibetans who have been tortured, starved to death or executed for their roles in demonstrations against the Chinese occupation. The film focuses on the experiences of young Buddhist nuns who have been imprisoned and tortured for their nonviolent protests such as shouting slogans, criticizing the Chinese state in conversations with foreigners, possessing posters calling for Tibetan independence, or for hoisting the Tibetan flag. *Satya* has received awards for Best Bay Area Documentary at the SF International Film Festival and Best Educational Politics Film award at the Oberhausen Film Festival in Germany, among others.

Sacrifice (1998) examines the trafficking of Burmese girls into Thailand's sex industry. Each year, thousands of young girls are recruited from rural villages and held for years in debt bondage in illegal Thai brothels, suffering extreme abuse by pimps, clients and the police. The film examines the social, cultural and economic forces at work behind the trafficking of these girls, and the efforts of the girls to survive personal crisis. *Sacrifice* received the Golden Spire Award at the SF International Film Festival and the Documentary Film Competition Award at the Sundance Film Festival. Screenings are free with Gallery admission. For more info, call 987-ARTS or go to www.YerbaBuenaArts.org.

Fresh Voices Festival at Goat Hill

Goat Hill Productions presents the annual Fresh Voices Festival III, a summer festival of fully staged new works and works in progress for classical music theatre and songs by local talents, at Goat Hill, 400 Missouri Street (at 19th Street). Two distinct programs on consecutive weekends feature five complete short operas, a full length opera, as well as several song sets and cycles. Featured composers include Mark Alburger, Lisa Scola Prosek, DC Meckler, Nancy Bloomer-Deussen, Sondra Clark, and Helena Michaelson. From July 19 – July 21, Program A features *Out of This World*, which includes *Dalmatia* and *Dalmatio*, a comic opera in one act, *The Underground Gardens – An American Immigrant Folktale*, based on the life of Baldassare Forestiere, and *Apollo 14 – A Space Opera*. From July 26 – July 28, Program B features *The Wind God*, a monodrama in one act, *San Francisco's Burning!*, a ballad opera, and *Satyricon*. Tickets are \$20 adult, \$15 senior/student. To reserve tickets and more info on show times, call 289-6877 or go to www.goathill.org.



Appearing in *Beauty Shop*, Lauren Steiner of Aviatrix Aerial Dance Theatre.

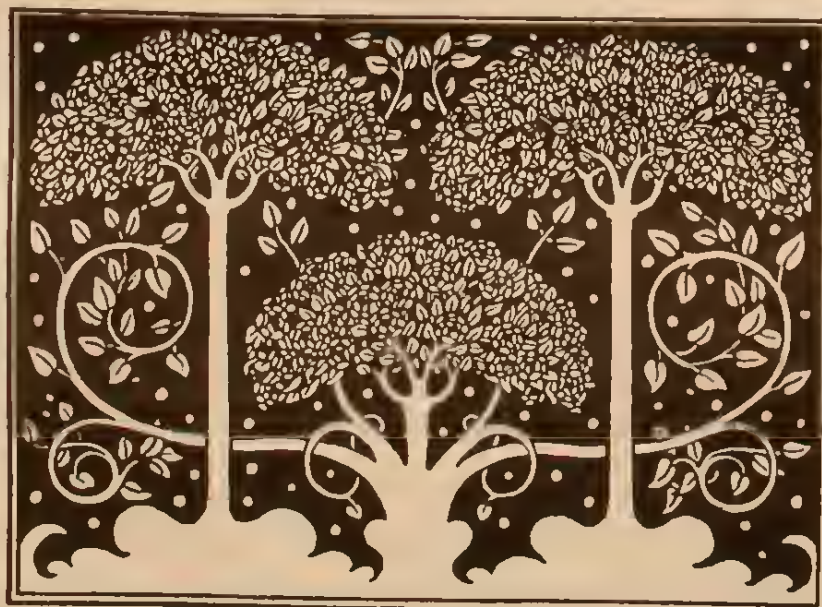
David Wilson Photo

Beauty Shop Comes to Noh Space

Hosted by Anita Cocktail, *Beauty Shop: An Evening of Comedy and Concept*, features the work of performers who play with or challenge concepts of beauty, at the Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa Street, from July 5 – July 7. Performances will include dance, spoken word, physical comedy, performance art, film, and aerial dance, as well as performance by mixed-ability artists. Performing artists include Amanda Coslor, The Dancing Tree, Todd Herman & Francis Kohler, Joann Selisker, Aviatrix Aerial Dance Theatre, Humilityswim Dancetheater, Gordon Shepard & Heidi Hennessey, Hilary Preston, Right Brain Performance Lab, Wry Crips Disabled Women's Theatre Group (July 7 only), among others. Tickets are sliding scale, \$10-\$20. For reservations, call 621-7978. For access info, call 239-5013.

The Legendary Ann Miller Comes to the Castro

An evening with Ann Miller, renowned star of stage and screen, takes place Friday, July 26, at the Castro Theatre. The show, titled "Too Darn Hot - An Evening with Living Legend Ann Miller," features Miller in discussion with critic Jan Wahl, tap dancer Matthew, and special guest Connie Champagne as Judy Garland. Miller's classic film *Kiss Me Kate* (1953) will be shown in 3-D. The event will begin with a Meet and Greet reception with the star, followed by an 8 p.m. gala. Tickets for the gala are \$25; \$50 for the reception and gala. Partial proceeds benefit Survive AIDS. Call 863-0611 for ticket info.



Will the World Wide Web 'Save Our Neighborhood'?

By Lester Zeidman

The signs just started appearing last month. "Save Our Neighborhood" is a pretty good slogan and manages to capture one's attention. They are in only a few windows right now but the distinct blue and gold draw your eyes and you wonder if Election Day is around the corner.

Well, window-sign season is on the way but this sign only references a web site and does not ask for your vote, just to browse with a mouse at your leisure. It warns of the impending changes taking place around Potrero Hill and the likelihood of Potrero Hill turning into another South Beach.

South Beach is in Miami, friends, and it is unlikely that that culture will appear on Potrero Hill anytime soon. But actually they are referring to our waterfront neighborhood to the slight northeast. South Beach, what an unclever name for an area. This is what happens when developer types start naming neighborhoods. They come up with names that play off the name of an area where they would rather be. Like SoMa - somehow that just grates on my ears. It's South of Market Street and will remain such until further notice. It is just too many New Yorkers trying to rush three words down to one. Someday I'll get used to it.

So what is the problem with South Beach? Try large-scale developments with blank walls that impose themselves on the streetscape. Housing that sits on top of a parking garage that forbids entry except at a single lobby. "Big box, mega-unit, mega story housing developments, anchored by storefront strip malls at street level." This is what The Neighbor-



hood Coalition to Save Potrero Hill refers to as "strip mall housing." In other words, housing that does not relate to the surrounding areas. Meaning that there are no strip malls on Potrero Hill, yet.

The web site is not flashy; it is easy to use and logically laid out. It is not demanding and presents a calm, reasoned position regarding Potrero Hill and the impending consequences of a developer-driven planning process.

The San Francisco Planning Department, now *there* is a really wacked out name for an agency that, for all intents and purposes, does no planning whatsoever. They do tend to react when developments are proposed but by generally wielding a rubber stamp, they tend to have no effect on development except delay.

And of course there is the Building Department that does absolutely no building at all.

What the Save our Neighborhood folks want is community-based planning. Planning based on and conforming to what already exists nearby. And to accomplish that they need the support of the community. Hence the signs and the painstaking work of community organizing.

Which is somewhat easier with a web site. The site offers photos and videos to help persuade viewers to understand the aftermath of developments that tend to isolate the street ambiance and shut out the neighborhood. They also believe that residential and industrial can exist side by side and get along in a reasonable way. In fact they want to preserve

the unique way that light industrial buildings and residential housing co-exist on the edges of Potrero Hill. They are not opposed to development, but they want a more thoughtful development with low-rise buildings in scale with people and their current surroundings.

Web site visitors are also encouraged to sign an electronic petition that will be transmitted to the mayor and planning department officials to encourage them to pay attention to the community and adhere to the interim planning controls now in place. This seemingly passive form of signature gathering might seem to get lost on the Internet. Perhaps not as effective as a few hundred reams of petitions flopped down onto someone's desk.

So, how is it going? "Real good," says web site owner Kepa Askenasy of Missouri Street. Getting any responses? "Oh, yes!" she says. "I haven't checked the numbers recently, but the site is definitely attracting people and they are responding." Kepa has been active in community planning issues over the last few years. She maintains contacts with local developers and organizes community meetings between developers and neighbors. The web site is not specific to any one development or against any specific developer but aims to encourage that the development process is based on community interest and not on maximizing a developer's profit. During the recent development frenzy, planning issues were often overlooked but now is the time to put these planning priorities back in the forefront.

So if you are interested in saving Potrero Hill, Kepa invites you to take a look at the web site at www.savepotrero.org and she can be emailed at contact@savepotrero.org.



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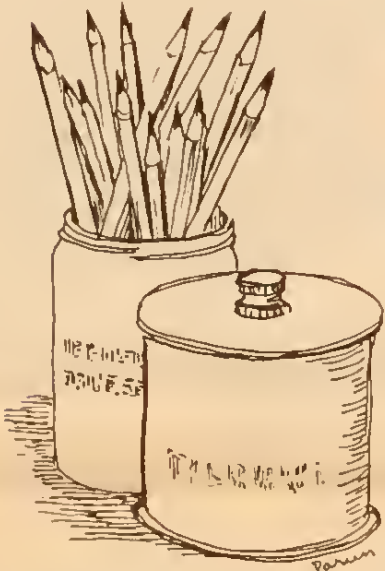
Free Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. has just published a new booklet, "The 100 Most Popular Government Giveaway Programs" which includes information on how and where to take advantage of the most popular government giveaway programs. This new booklet lists names, addresses and phone numbers of where San Francisco residents can take advantage of the top 100 government giveaway programs.

"Politicians have always known that the best way to get Americans to vote is to promise to cut taxes. That's why they always talk about the government wasting your money. What they never talk about is the things that the government stands ready to give you, or to help you buy at bargain basement prices," says James Rungseegul, a researcher at the Institute. "The most popular listings in the booklet are:

* Loans for entrepreneurs with no money.

- *\$2,500 for college students for summer travel.
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- *Find a federal job with a phone call.
- *\$20,000 to write a novel.
- *Get paid to travel and talk.
- *Free medications direct from drug companies.
- *Money for seniors to fix up their homes.
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- *Students—let your congressman show you millions.

Consumers can receive a copy of the booklet by sending \$5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Free Enterprise Institute - 100 Government Giveaways - Dept. 100GG-0522 - P. O. Box 60739, Washington, D.C. 20039-0739. Consumers can also get more information about the booklet by calling (202)595-1031, or visit the organization's web site: www.FreeEnterpriseInstitute.org.



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Request for Qualifications Architectural/Engineering Services Southeast Health Center Expansion

The Bayview Hunters Point Health and Environmental Resource Center (HERC) seeks a highly qualified architectural consultant to assist in the pre-development expansion of Southeast Health Center in the Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhood of San Francisco. The architectural consultant will be asked to prepare, in concert with various community stakeholders, a series of documents designed to define the feasibility, size, cost and time frame for the construction of such a community facility.

Scope of work will include the development of space program, concept schematic design, conceptual cost estimate, design illustrations and rough timeline. These documents will be developed with input and participation from members of the Bayview Hunters Point community, in addition to specific guidance to be provided by staff members of HERC.

Southeast Health Center's expansion will combine a variety of programs, such as general medical treatment, dental services, emergency room treatment, sex/STD counseling, physical therapy, support groups, mental health counseling and possibly a cafeteria. Presently, HERC is conducting a needs assessment, determining the major health problems in the Bayview Hunters Point community. A series of community meetings are being held to engage residents in discussions regarding programs and services desirable in the health center. This facility is intended to have a far-reaching positive impact on the health and welfare of the residents of the Bayview Hunters Point community. HERC welcomes firms that share a progressive approach to issues of environmental justice in communities of color. Preference will be granted to firms with previous work experience in Bayview Hunters Point and/or inner city neighborhoods.

A RFQ Orientation/Community Meeting for interested persons or firms will be held on July 23, 2002 at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Southeast Community College, 1800 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124, in the Alex Pitcher Community Room. Attendance is mandatory.

Respondents shall submit copies ten (10) copies of their qualification documents as specified in the RFQ package. All respondent documents must arrive at Bayview Hunters Point Health and Environmental Resource Center (HERC), #2 Cameron Way, San Francisco, CA 94124, prior to 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2002. Late and/or incomplete submissions will be deemed non-responsive and will not be considered.

THE RFQ PACKAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER JULY 1, 2002 AND MAY BE REQUESTED BY CONTACTING:

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How to Get Free or Low Cost Medical Care

Patient Assistance Network has just published a new booklet "Free & Low Cost Medical Care." The booklet includes information on a how and where to get free and low cost medical care under the Federal Hill-Burton program in the San Francisco CA area.

The Hill-Burton program has been in effect for over 50 years providing more than 35 billion dollars in free and low cost care to qualified participants. The program was established in 1946 to assist in the construction and modernization of hospitals and medical care facilities. Nearly 6 billion dollars in grants and loans were given to 7,000 facilities in over 4,000 communities. In exchange, the facilities agreed to provide a reasonable amount of services to persons residing in the San Francisco community who are unable to pay their bill.

"There are currently 687 facilities that provide free or low cost medical care, but there is rarely any publicity to let the public know about this pro-

gram," says Jim Surasak, a researcher at Patient Assistance Network. "A step by step outline guides consumers through the process of finding a participating facility, and applying to determine their eligibility for free or low cost care. Consumers can apply before or after receiving care from a participating facility," says Surasak.

Patient Assistance Network is an organization established by volunteers dedicated to helping people who cannot afford medical care or prescription medication. The primary purposes of Patient Assistance Network are to inform potentially qualified applicants about the patient assistance programs for which they appear eligible and assist them in the enrollment process.

Consumers can receive a copy by sending \$5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Patient Assistance Network - Free & Low Cost Medical Care Booklet - Dept. MCB-0605 - P. O. Box 60382, Washington, D.C. 20039

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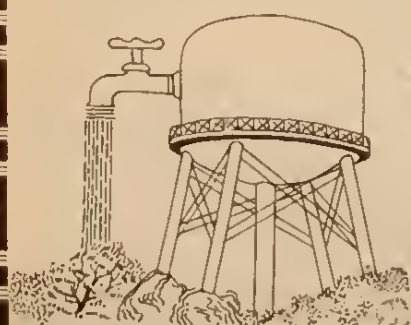
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